

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Thrice amended) In combination in a data processing system for implementing a structured trading environment for transacting the purchase and sale of select items having a predetermined set of characteristics wherein said data processing system is operated by a plurality of trading participants through a [specific] communication platform to permit exchanging [positions regarding] offers and bids and for receiving select participant trade commands relating to said items, comprising:

a plurality of workstations comprising a display means for presenting to a participant information about pending market conditions as they relate to said items being traded and the [select positions taken] bids and offers entered by other participants in regard to said items; and

a [central] server₂ in communication with said workstations, [linked to said workstations and] programmed to support a predetermined trading control logic wherein said trading control logic comprises a protocol of trade sequences initiated from a bid/offer state by a participant hit or lift trade command wherein said protocol is directed to [implement] execute trade commands from said participants in a predefined way corresponding to [the development of] a plurality of trade [specific] states defining the ability of various participants to participate in [said] trading activity₂

wherein said trade states comprise a state whereby the trading control logic, in response to detecting that an aggressor participant's hit or lift of an order and that the order was changed from a first size to a second size that is greater than the first size within a predefined period of time of the hit or lift command, automatically enables the aggressor participant to decline, prior to execution, at least a portion of only the excess above the first size.

2. (Amended) The trading system of claim 1 wherein said protocol is defined by a stored program comprising a logic structure that defines conditions where [a] the aggressor participant [becomes] may initiate a [trader] trade and conditions where [other] passive participants may participate in [a] the trade.

4. (Twice amended) The trading system of claim 1 wherein said [trading] trade states [is comprised of] further comprise [a bid/offer state and] a Workup State whereby the trading control logic, in response to an aggressor participant's hit or lift of the entire volume represented by one or more passive participants' bids or offers at a trade price, enables the aggressor participant and the first-in-time of the passive participants to trade with each other additional volume of the item at said trade price to the exclusion of another participant desiring to trade.

5. (Twice amended) The trading system of claim 4 wherein [aid trading] said trade states further comprise a When State whereby the trading control logic, if a first participant has entered a bid and a second participant has entered an offer, inhibits execution of a hit or lift trade command subsequently entered by a third participant to allow a period of time for the first and second participant to transact a trade with each other by one of them entering a hit or lift trade command.

7. (Twice amended) The trading system of claim [6] 1 wherein said [trading state] trade states further comprise a Workdown State whereby the trading control logic, in response to an aggressor participant's hit or lift of less than the entire volume presented by one or more passive participant's bids or offers at a trade price, enables a second aggressor to hit or lift remaining untraded volume at the trade price.

21. (Amended) The trading system of claim [14] 16 wherein said display means presents information on trade transactions and participant access is contingent on a system trading state.

31-33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) The trading system of claim 1, wherein said trading control logic in response to the hit or lift command automatically executes the order for first size.

35. (New) The trading system of claim 4, wherein the other participant is precluded from transacting a trade with the aggressor or passive participants until at least one of the aggressor and passive participants have finished trading.

36. (New) The trading system of claim 5, wherein the inhibited trade command is automatically executed if the period of time expires without the first and second participants transacting a trade.

37. (Cancelled).